

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

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Now for Nixon 10

In releasing a financial statement based on his tax returns of the past 10 years Gen. Eisenhower said he was conscious of little public interest in the matter. People being what they are, he will find on the contrary that the figures will be studied with a good deal of interest.

One thing the statement shows is the advantage of being an amateur author benefiting by a special tax ruling from the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Without imputing any impropriety to Gen. Eisenhower for receiving the benefit of this ruling, people cannot help noticing that the biggest item in the general's income for the past 10 years was the \$635,000 he received from his book, "Crusade in Europe."

On this he paid a tax of 25 per cent instead of approximately 75 per cent he would have paid if it had been classified as a single year's income rather than as capital gain. In other words, the Bureau's ruling saved the General taxes of more than \$300,000.

This information will no doubt be received with special interest by other military authors, such as Gen. Walter Bedell Smith and Gen. Omar Bradley, who did not receive the same tax treatment as Gen. Eisenhower. Because they had written magazine articles prior to writing their memoirs, they were classified as professional writers and the proceeds from their books were taxed as income.

Thanks largely to the tax ruling, Gen. Eisenhower had an income for 10 years of \$888,303 and paid federal taxes totaling \$217,081, or 24 per cent.

By contrast, Gov. Stevenson reported a 10-year income of \$500,052 on which he paid federal taxes of \$211,980, or 42 per cent.

Gen. Eisenhower has now gone almost as far as Gov. Stevenson went in making full public disclosure of his financial position. Though he did not publish photostatic copies of his income tax returns, his statement is based on the tax returns and nobody will be disposed to question its accuracy.

Now, what about Senator Nixon? The Republican vice presidential nominee started it all, yet he is the only one of the four who has withheld documented data based on tax returns.

Unless he presents that kind of data, as distinguished from the purely personal and undocumented story he told the television and radio audience two weeks ago, what are the people to conclude? Will they not draw the inference which he urged them to draw about Gov. Stevenson and Senator Sparkman?

Senator Nixon said that if the Democratic candidates did not make a complete financial statement "it will be an admission that they have something to hide." Well, Senator Nixon?